

# Music Fees Verdict Postponed

## Film Men Talk Soviet Amity

Means of furthering the friendship between Soviet Russia and the Dominion of Canada was the purpose of a meeting of the Film Committee of the National Council for Canadian-Soviet Friendship held last week in the board room of Famous Players Corporation. Three members of the

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## Indies to Stage Peace Gabfest

The Independent Theatres Owners Association of Ontario and the General Managers' Association, after several years of marked differences that led to everything but name-calling, will break bread together at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, on February 1.

President Ben Freedman of the

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## Maynard to UA

Paul Maynard, until recently with PRC, has joined the sales staff of United Artists.

## Quints See 'Lassie' Rename Own Pet

The Dionne quintuplets saw their first movie last week at the Capitol, North Bay, Ontario. The film was MGM's "Lassie Come Home." Taken with Lassie's acting, the Quints renamed their Newfoundland canine "Lassie," the dog being formerly known as Dore.

## Soldiers' Smokes At Centre, Chatham

Harold King, manager of the Centre, Chatham, Ontario, is staging public auctions in his theatre to raise funds that will buy smokes for some of Chatham's 1,104 soldiers overseas.

## Industry Opposed to Future Raising of Royalties Basis

Decision of the Copyright Appeal Board on the application of the American Performing Right Society to enter the Canadian music copyright field may be postponed until a special enquiry is held to determine just how large the repertoire of the applicant is.

## Where Are Your Kids? Everywhere

There is something to the crack that there are no delinquent children—only delinquent parents.

Last week a manager heard an uproar in the house. On the stage, standing and looking at the screen, were two youngsters. The manager chased them—back to their father. He had been sitting there all the time and it didn't seem unusual to him.

Another manager came upon a lost three-year-old girl. Her mother had allowed her to look for the washroom alone, being unwilling to disturb herself.

The board, meeting in Ottawa last week under the chairmanship of the Hon. Mr. Thorson, heard an American and a Canadian attorney present the case of the American organization.

The American Performing Right Society, controlling considerable Latin music, is asking the

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## Blood Donors Film Available to All

A film relating to the Red Cross Blood Bank and its work is available at any 20th-Fox exchange in the Dominion without charge to exhibitors. Those who would like to spur that valuable work in their communities can have it for the asking.

## War Prisoners To See Movies

Canadian and other Allied prisoners of war in Germany are about to see their first Hollywood and British films since capture. Late this month the first shipment of 26 films, contributed by the major companies, will arrive at prison camps under the sponsorship and distribution of the

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## 'Battle of Russia' Does Well Here

Twentieth Century-Fox's "Battle of Russia," a feature made for the USA Office of War Information by Frank Capra and Anatole Litvak, got off to surprising business in its early Canadian engagements. In its first Toronto run at the Tivoli there was a long morning lineup on

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## Lightstone, Barron To New York

Gordon Lightstone, Paramount Canadian general manager, and Win Barron, in charge of sales promotion, will attend the company gathering in New York on February 3, 4 and 5.

## More Trailers, Etc. Used Last Year

Use of trailers and newsclips was greater in Dominion theatres in 1943 than in any previous year. According to the Motion Picture War Services Committee there were nine trailers of varying length. These, relating to drives, had 4,000 distinct bookings.

There were 41 newsclips used during the year, which means that there were 11 weeks during which none was shown. Five thousand copies of the newsclips were distributed during the year.

## Indies to Ottawa For Price Confab

Groupings, prices and trade practices as they are carried on now in the motion picture industry under the supervision of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board will be reviewed at a meeting in Ottawa on February 8 between representatives of the National Council of Independents and those of the government.

## Vaudeville Dropped

Vaudeville has been dropped by the Capitol, Hamilton, after an experimental run of several weeks.

## A. G. McLean Leaves National Film Board

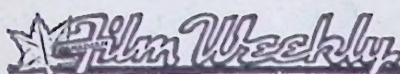
For two years controller and secretary of the National Film Board, A. G. McLean has retired. He will be succeeded by E. C. Collins, formerly of the Auditor General's office.

The meeting, which has been sought by the National Council executive for a long time, shapes up as the most important of its kind since freezing legislation came into effect in 1941. Since that time Independents have maintained a constant barrage of criticism, claiming that the work of the Theatre and Film section of the WPTB, which until recently was in full-time

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**Ray Malone and Patsy O'Connor** are a new team appearing with Gloria Jean in UNIVERSAL'S "Moonlight in Vermont," another of the extremely popular musical series from this studio. The public reaction to Malone and O'Connor has caused Universal to spot them in important roles in future films. UNIVERSAL'S minor musicals are considered boxoffice gems by those who play them.





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## 'Movies for Children'

It is always a pleasure to have someone speak up for us, since so many have little to say about motion pictures until they see something that rubs them the wrong way. These critics always manage to capture press space for their pet peeves.

The Peterborough, Ontario, Examiner had something to say about the opinions of the local Home and School Club, which concerned itself with the effect of movies on children. Exhibitors would do well to call the attention of editors in their towns to the editorial, called "Movies for Children," which follows:

We see that the local Home and School Council intends to write to the Provincial Treasurer, suggesting that a woman be included on the Board of Motion Picture Censorship for this Province; the Council may spare itself the trouble, for Maud Canning has done good work on the Board, assisting the Chairman, O. J. Silverthorne, for some years. The Council's object, as we understand the matter, is to urge that films unsuitable for showing to children be barred from exhibition in Ontario.

We do not believe that any such proposal would be seriously considered by the Board of Censors. The moving pictures are patronized by people of all ages, and it is impossible to restrict what they see to children's fare; to do so would be as silly as to decree that restaurants should serve no food which was not digestible by children. It is expected that parents will keep their children from eating foods which are unsuitable for them; similarly it may be expected that parents will keep their children away from movies which may have a bad effect on them. It must be understood that the proprietors of movie houses are not running day-nurseries, to which children may be sent whenever they are in the way at home. They are running places of public entertainment, and the adult public may fittingly ask to see films which would be unsuitable for exhibition to children.

The child whose film fare is supervised is not likely to come to any harm from seeing a weekly movie; on the contrary, the stimulation of his imagination will probably be good for him. Experiments in making films primarily for children have not been unqualified in their success. "Snow White" contained a Witch who was too horrible for the smaller and more impressionable children; "Lassie Come Home" excites such sympathy for the dog who plays the chief part that children are reduced to tears; the films made for children are usually more disturbing than those prepared for general release. Our own opinion is that children like slapstick comedies best of all, then thrillers, and then sentimental films; sex dramas come low on the list of preferences for the plain reason that children scarcely comprehend what they are about.

We must not lose sight of the fact that the movies are a form of art, and are indeed the only form in which drama reaches millions of people on this continent. To attempt to limit drama to subjects suitable for consideration by children is sheer nonsense. Great drama and great literature are rarely suited to the needs of the very young; they are produced by adults for the entertainment of adults and children must wait until they are grown up to appreciate them. We cannot impose infantillism on the whole Province by limiting the movies to the needs of children.

Associations of parents are often excellent things, but they have a bad habit of wanting other people to do work which properly belongs to parents themselves. If parents want to protect their children from unsuitable movies let them keep their children at home, and supervise their movie fare carefully. They must not try to bully the censors into doing their job for them, and they must not try to dictate the movie fare which shall be offered to the majority of movie-goers, who are adults and must be treated as adults.

## Indies to Ottawa Await More Info On Prices, Etc.

(Continued from Page 1)

charge of R. G. McMullen, has had little effect on the business conduct of the distributors. McMullen, on loan from E. P. Taylor Enterprises to the Special Services Administration, returned to his own concern several weeks ago and now acts in an advisory capacity only.

### Gather From Many Points

Representatives from provincial branches of the National Council will be present at the meeting to present their brief before leading figures of the government and the WPTB administration. The names of those reported as slated to discuss the claims of the Independents gives the gathering seeming significance at this time, it being unlikely that these officials would take time off from their duties to weigh trivial matters.

According to good sources Donald Gordon, top man of the WPTB, will preside. Others who are expected to be present are M. W. McCutcheon, administrator of services, under whom McMullen served; the Hon. J. L. Ilsley, finance minister; and a representative of the Prime Minister.

National Council representatives will be headed by President Archie J. Mason. P. W. Mahon will come from Saskatchewan; H. G. Stevenson from Alberta, H. Shulman from Manitoba, Malcolm E. Walker from the Maritimes, R. McTavish from British Columbia, C. O. Auclair from Quebec, and Henry Falk and Ben Freedman from Ontario.

### Organized After WPTB

The National Council of Independents came into being after the organization of the Independent Theatres Owners Association of Ontario, which grew out of the conviction of those responsible for it that the Indies had no adequate voice in advising the WPTB of industry problems. A National Advisory Council made up of representatives of every section of the industry was formed but, lacking in authority, met irregularly and seems to have lapsed into inactivity.

Protests of the Indies won few if any concessions, though they stirred troubled waters. In 1942 a 32-page booklet was issued by them bearing the signature of Barnett Laxer, since out of the picture, which charged that the WPTB regulations had no restrictive effect on the distributors. The charge was also made that the circuits worked with the distributors in a way detrimental to the business welfare of the Indies and these claims were aired in the House of Commons by a member from British Columbia.

## Await More Info In Royalties Case

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right to collect annually two cents per seat from theatres with 1600 seats or more and one cent per seat from those under that capacity. APRS's repertoire was formerly part of that supervised in the Dominion by the Canadian Performing Right Society.

Major opposition was provided by the Canadian Performing Right Society, which insists that the APRS repertoire amounts to a small fraction of one per cent of copyright music, although the applicants maintain that it is closer to four per cent. The point will be settled before a fee is approved.

Others represented were the Musical Protective Society of Canada, with which theatres are affiliated, Canadian Association of Broadcasters and Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

### Object to Total Increase

The Musical Protective Society, represented by Norman Robertson, K.C., has no objection to the new organization sharing the present fee but is opposed to a separate or additional levy. It was pointed out that the present fees of the Canadian society, which is exclusive in the field, were based on its position as the only such agency.

Users of copyright music in the Dominion are convinced that the Canadian Performing Right Society intends to ask for higher fees in the future, claiming that they should be the same as in the United States. American fees are 20 cents per seat per year in all theatres with 1600 seats or more and 15 cents per seat per year for all houses with from 800 to 1599 seats. All theatres seating 800 or less are required to pay five cents per seat. Canadian fees are 15 cents per seat per year over 1600 and 12 cents from 801 to 1599.

### To Oppose Rate Boost

Those opposed to raising of Canadian fees point out that Canadian fees are higher than they should be in proportion to those of the United States. The average American spends almost \$10 per year on movies and the average Canadian almost four dollars—less than half. Based on proportionate annual earnings the Canadian fees, it is felt, are too high rather than too low.

It is also claimed that the annual total amassed by the Canadian Performing Right Society has increased by more than \$10,000 in the last year. There are almost 100,000 more movie seats now than there were two years ago and many theatres which were open but a few days each week are now on a full schedule.



## Indies to Stage Peace Gabfest

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Indies has invited the general managers to a good-will luncheon at which some attempt will be made to create a basis for friendlier association in the future. Col. John A. Cooper, chairman of the board of directors of the Canadian Motion Picture Distributors Association, will speak for the general managers and Henry Falk will undertake the same chore for the Indies.

The Indies of the ITAO have in the past described themselves as "ultra-Independents." This was to distinguish them from those Indies who belonged to all-embracing exhibitors associations and others who had pool deals with circuits.

Since Ben Freedman became president they have shown a willingness to discuss joint action with other exhibitors. A while back committees from the ITOA and the Motion Picture Theatres Association of Ontario talked unity but nothing came of it. The ITOA was willing to join the latter organization if allowed to act as a separate wing, a proposition that did not appeal to the MPTAO.

Unity of exhibitors in the Dominion has grown in appeal and in fact. There are exhibitors who belong to both Independent and all-embracing associations and in several instances new exhibitor bodies have been created by men who belonged solely to Indie groups until then.

The good-will luncheon, initiated by the Indies, may have a good effect on unity.

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One set of stage curtains.

Two sets of corner photo frames, each holding eight photos.

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## Calling Dr. Death

with Lon Chaney, Patricia Morison  
Universal 63 Mins.

TREAT IN STORE FOR THOSE WHO LIKE PSYCHOLOGICAL FILMS; PIC BOASTS UNUSUALLY WELL TOLD STORY.

"Calling Dr. Death" is an absorbing psychological melodrama produced in fine style. Tense, simply told and never wavering in its interest, the production is a first-rate booking for those who go in for this type of entertainment. An agreeable surprise awaits those who see the film, in which a difficult subject has been handled extremely well.

For this excursion into the subconscious Edward Dein has devised a compact screenplay possessing many excellent touches. His chief characters are a neurologist and his nurse. The doctor is cursed with an unfaithful wife, who is found dead one fine day. Having suffered a lapse of memory at the time the murder occurred, he is assailed by the fear that he committed the crime. Meanwhile, the woman's lover is arrested for the murder. When the doctor becomes convinced that neither he nor the lover is the killer, he sets out to find the answer to the riddle in order to save the other man from death in the chair. How he discovers through hypnotism that his nurse is the guilty one comprises the most gripping portion of the film. It seems the murder was the outcome of a blackmail plot of which the doctor was not aware.

Under the swell direction of Reginald LeBorg, Lon Chaney has come through with a surprisingly fine performance. Patricia Morison is effective as the murderess. Other effective performances are contributed by J. Carrol Naish as a police inspector and David Bruce as the other man. The wife is played by Ramsay Ames.

Virgil Miller's photography plays an important part in establishing and maintaining the mood.

CAST: Lon Chaney, Ramsay Ames, Patricia Morison, J. Carrol Naish, David Bruce, Fay Helm, Peggy Morton, Isabel Jewell.

DIRECTION, Good. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

## Hold Midnight Revel

B & F Managers Association held a midnight supper and dance at the Chudleigh House, Toronto, last week. Highlight was a drum solo played by Sam Bloom, managing director, who gave the piano the go-by on this occasion to whack the tight skin.

## Destination Tokyo

with Cary Grant, John Garfield  
Warner 135 Mins.

PUT THIS DOWN AS MASTERPIECE OF ACTION, EXCITEMENT AND SUSPENSE; ACTING, CAMERA WORK TOPS.

"Destination Tokyo" is a companion-piece to those two superlative Warner Bros. productions of the past year—"Air Force" and "Action in the North Atlantic." There can be no finer praise of the new film than that. The latest addition to the roster of war films is in the best Warner tradition. It possesses all the qualities that made "Air Force" and "Action in the North Atlantic" such potent entertainment. There is no mistaking the destination of "Destination Tokyo." It's the proverbial pot of gold.

Big and solid, the production uses the screen medium with startling effect. It employs impressive sweep and every facet of dramatic art in recounting the mission of an American submarine and in detailing the life of the crew under the most arduous conditions imaginable. The Warners have spared nothing to make the story of the submarine captain and his men something to remember.

Few films from the Warner studios have carried a stronger impact. The production has been packed with human incident to give it a heart wallop as well as a patriotic fervor. So well have the human elements been handled that the audience cannot help but feel that it is living with the men in the submarine and sharing their emotions and their thoughts.

Engrossing and interesting is the saga of the Copperfin, which has orders to penetrate Tokyo Harbor and send ashore a landing party to obtain vital dope in preparation for a bombing of the Japanese capital. How the mission is discharged in the face of tremendous odds after a harrowing trip across the Pacific makes for some rousing footage.

The film has been superbly cast down to its smallest role. Cary Grant and John Garfield are tops as sub captain and tough crew member, respectively. Alan Hale, John Ridgely, Dane Clark, Warner Anderson, William Prince, Robert Hutton and Tom Tully are some whose work is aces.

CAST: Cary Grant, John Garfield, Alan Hale, John Ridgely, Dane Clark, Warner Anderson, William Prince, Robert Hutton, Peter Whitely, Faye Emerson, Warren Douglas, John Fawcett. DIRECTION, Aces. PHOTOGRAPHY, Aces.

## Film Men Talk Soviet Amity

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committee were absent.

With Dr. Malcolm Ross, executive director of the Council, in the chair, those present gave most of their time to discussing the possible wider appeal of Soviet films with English dialogue, the first of which, "No Greater Love," had been screened earlier for the members.

It was decided that the film would be given several test runs in situations where the patronage was mainly English-speaking. It was agreed that it would take some time to decide the effect of Soviet English-dialogue films and the best way of offering them to the public, which has become accustomed to regarding Soviet films as documentaries because so many of that pattern have been shown.

Opinion was expressed that Hollywood films on Russian themes such as Samuel Goldwyn's "North Star" and MGM's "Song of Russia" might do more towards enlightening the public about Soviet life than even imported features. Star value would play a great part in creating larger audiences for them.

It was emphasized by Dr. Ross that the Council, headed by Sir Ellsworth Flavelle, was completely non-political.

Morris Stein was appointed to act with Dr. Ross for the committee. Max Chic acted as secretary.

Present also were J. J. Fitzgibbons, Famous Players; N. A. Taylor, Twentieth Century Theatres; Alf W. Perry, Empire-Universal; Jack Karr, Toronto Daily Star; and Hye Bossin, Canadian Film Weekly.

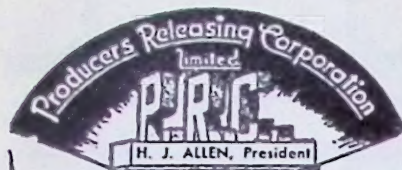
## RKO Signs Deal With Internat'l Pictures

RKO will have distribution of the new International Pictures, Inc. product. William Goetz and Leo Spitz formed the company recently.

International's first production schedule is full of big stuff. The company starts production immediately on "Casanova Brown," with Gary Cooper and Teresa Wright. Second film will be a Technicolor musical called "Belle of the Yukon," to be followed by "Once Off Guard," with Ed. G. Robinson.

Another Technicolor musical on the schedule, "It's a Pleasure," will star Sonja Henie.





## BOOK NOW!

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### Tale of a Haunted Seaman

Movies are global in their travels and so are merchant seamen. This universal affinity is a grand thing for the wartime wanderer but better never the twain shall meet than Sunday, Monday and always everywhere. That's how Merchant Mariner Jack Scott of Orillia, Ontario, feels about it.

In Toronto Jack dropped in to see Hopalong Cassidy as a matter of personal preference. The next week he was in Prescott, Ontario, where the only house in town featured Hoppy. His next stop was Ogdensburg, New York, where he had to see Hopalong again. By now Jack was being suffocated by alkali dust and was longing for the sea again.

Landing in Montreal on a five-hour layoff, he headed for the nearest movie—well, it was Cassidy again or nothing at all. A sailor must stick close to port. Next we find Scott in Halifax with some time to spare. He went to the Family Theatre. Hopalong. Cursing the Cassidy he crossed the bay to Dartmouth—to find Hopalong there ahead of him. He rushed back to Halifax, hurried to the Community theatre and ran smack into Hoppy again. So he spent the time wandering around and wondering whether the mental miseries had caught up with him.

Haunted and desperate, he was glad to be off to the tranquillity of the sea, with only mere annoyances—storms, subs and planes—to upset a man's peace of mind. When he landed in Port au Spain, Trinidad, he was fit as a fiddle and ready for movies again. But Hoppy was waiting for him. His ship went on to Georgetown, British Guiana, where there is one English-speaking theatre—but Hopalong had taken over!

Last week Jack Scott came home to Orillia and dropped around to see a movie and a friend at the same time. The friend was W. N. LaRose, house manager of the Opera House—but the movie was a Hopalong Cassidy.

It was LaRose who told me about the travels and travails of Scott. Scott went on a verbal rampage when he saw Hoppy three-sheeted.

Reviewers and critics who are flicker-happy and wake up screening may give a pint of blood to the Red Cross on learning how lucky they really are.

Hollywood ought to give Scott a medal.

\* \* \*

### Early Notes

Talk about vandalism—Bill Karry of our favorite pool-hall tells me that customers steal snooker balls. They cost \$1.50 each. Now what would anyone want with a pool ball? . . . Mr. and Mrs. Harold Jackson celebrated their 15th anniversary the other day with a party. He manages the Bayview. . . Overheard: "Big money doesn't make a big man." . . One manager who likes a pun is awaiting the coming of the Sinatra film, "Higher and Higher," so that he can bill it: "Coming Swoon!" . . . Eating out is hazardous these days. One fellow found a towel in a cake he had bought and the manager explained that it might have been put there by a vengeful ex-employee. Another fellow found a staple in his pie in one of a popular chain of restaurants. Broke a tooth on it. The manager looked at him in blasé fashion while listening, then handed him a card. "That's our dentist," he explained. "He handles all our cases." . . Two cockney women in a shelter during the bombing of London and one said, "I do wish that fellow Hitler would marry and settle down!"

\* \* \*

### The English

I was leafing through a book of Empire Club speeches made during 1938-39 and came upon one by Brigadier James Mess, who is known to many motion picture people. In his speech, called "What Is the British Point of View?" he told an interesting story.

During a bitter three-hour debate about Munich, in which Churchill had turned his greatest powers of speech upon Chamberlain, the latter rose to reply.

"I cannot agree with my Right Honorable Friend—" he said, then with a smile turned to Churchill, "if I may still call him so."

Churchill half-rose, bowed his head, and said: "If I am not unworthy, sir."

The House of Commons cheered.

## 'Battle of Russia' Does Well Here

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opening day.

The film was made as one of the orientation series for military showing only but turned out to be so interesting that a demand arose for public distribution. Expertly handled, it combines history, pageantry, music, dancing and travel scenes. It certainly is best of its type to be offered to the public until now.

Actual war and horror scenes are limited, the purpose being to explain the kind of a people the Russians are, how they found themselves at war and why they were able to put up such a glorious fight against the invaders.

Army officials say that it has been a definite impetus to recruiting and patrons, until now somewhat indifferent to war films, were agreeably surprised at the clarity of the explanation of its purpose and the interesting presentation.

Wherever "Battle of Russia" has been shown so far it has drawn enthusiastic editorial and critical support. The Toronto Daily Star said editorially that "The film provides a grand tour across the Soviet Union and through some of its most romantic and dramatic pages of history." Much has been made of its folk dancing and musical sequences and of its musical background. The score is mainly from Tchaikovsky's music.

The public, having been acquainted with German atrocities by earlier Russian films, is exposed only to enough to remind them of the Nazi mentality.

### New Manager

Len J. Jones, formerly of RCMP, is now managing the Capitol, Lethbridge.

### Film Lost in Wreck

A considerable number of prints from different companies were lost in the explosion and fire that took place on a train in the Maritimes recently.

### Iscoe Moves Up In UA Toronto Branch

Al Iscoe has assumed duties of supervision of the Toronto branch of United Artists, temporarily replacing A. J. Jeffery, who moved into the spot of Canadian sales manager when David H. Coplan left to take charge of UA in Britain.

Iscoe, well-liked in the industry, started with the Allens in 1929. In 1938 he went to Calgary as manager of the Grand National branch there, shifting to UA in 1941 as office manager. A while later he became Calgary branch manager.

He was transferred to the Toronto branch in 1942.





## Vitagraph's 'Destination Tokyo' Masterpiece of Action, Excitement

ONE of the finest acting and technical jobs of the season is Vitagraph's "Destination Tokyo," in which the excitement is supreme when the footage isn't given over to honest and crackerjack comedy.

Cary Grant has never been better and John Garfield's role is a sympathetic one this time. Alan Hale is superb. An excellent group of actors, expertly cast, round out the film.

It's the story of the submarine that got into Tokyo harbor.







OF CANADA LTD.  
277 Victoria Street,  
Toronto.

★

## Where Are Your Children?

The film about one of the greatest problems of today. Monogram's treatment of this has won the acclaim of Juvenile Court officials, social workers and leading citizens. It has caused excitement in the industry

**BOOK  
THIS SMASH  
BOXOFFICE  
ATTRACTION**

## Variety Reports

NEW YORK (Globe)  
'Children' a WHAM . . .  
rousing . . . exceptionally  
big . . . **HOLDOVER**  
PITTSBURGH (Shea)  
'Children' a WOW . . .  
**SOCK SURPRISE**

★

The new "big name" company  
in the industry.

**MONOGRAM  
PICTURES**

Toronto, Montreal, St. John,  
Winnipeg, Calgary, Vancouver.

# RCN Seagoing Circuit OK

**Self-Sustaining Naval Film Society  
Plays to 27,000 Every Week  
On Ship and Shore**

AVERAGE attendance at movies shown under the auspices of the Royal Canadian Naval Film Society are 27,000 weekly, it was revealed in the first yearly report of the organization. Of the total, 4,000 see films aboard ship and 23,000 on shore. Twenty thousand of those who see film on shore are taken care of in 11 of the Society's 13 35-mm. theatres and 3,000 see 16 mm. features and shorts. The sea-going circuit is made up of 60 ships.

Each distribution company makes film available to the Society in the case of 35 mm. but RKO is the only exception in the 16 mm. setup. Conditions of supply to ships are for the most part difficult, since programs must remain aboard for long periods of time. This has necessitated the outright purchase of programs in a number of cases. The average program costs \$250 and can at best be used only 35 times before the prints are worn out.

Rental policy for the 35 mm. theatres on shore is the same as that of the regular trade. They are booked as a group by RCN bookers, many recruited from the film business, and are handled much the same as any circuit. Profits go to the Society and are allocated to the establishment in which this or that theatre is located, if required.

### Insurance a Problem

Because of wartime conditions the cost of insurance with private companies is prohibitive. The Society therefore has to carry its own risk and a reserve fund is being built to take care of film assets, which are regarded as RCN property. Quite considerable losses have already been sustained, not all of them due to enemy action. Careless handling, as with regular commercial theatres, has also accounted for loss of films and equipment.

Royal Canadian Naval Film Society was formed in October, 1942, to overcome entertainment problems peculiar to that branch of the services. Lieut. Dave S. Rubin, formerly a theatre manager, became its manager and it is agreed that he has done a first-rate job. An Order-in-Council was issued and a committee nominated by the Chief of the Naval Staff.

The original Order-in-Council provided a donation of \$6,000 and a loan of \$10,000, which was repayable in two years. In return the Society made all its facilities

available for the use of training films. Entertainment, however, is the primary object and it is expected that by next year the field will have been thoroughly covered. The Society today is regarded as a sound business organization.

### Showing a Profit

Revenue is obtained from ship-board showings by charging 25 cents per officer and 5 cents for all other ratings per performance. It is not compulsory to join and ship executives who prefer to make their own arrangements may do so. A ship joining the Society and on which equipment is installed pays an initiation fee of \$1.50 per man.

The Society stages free shows in naval hospitals and hospital ships.

Generous co-operation is received from the U. S. Army Motion Picture Service.

Total resources of the Society are \$18,335.07 and liabilities are \$10,918.11. Expenses during the year were \$23,332.95, of which \$17,933.55 was for film rentals.

## War Prisoners To See Movies

(Continued from Page 1)  
War Prisoners Aid Committee of the YMCA.

The Nazi government has agreed to permit the showing of English and American films to Allied prisoners and in turn will send German-made films to Nazi prisoners in Allied territory.

No newsreels or films with political significance will be shown, according to the agreement. It was determined by the Committee that most German camps had 16 mm. equipment and the films will be of the same class shown to the armed forces in general.

Italian prisoners in the United States and other countries have been shown films.

The War Activities Committee of the Motion Picture Industry was one of the groups responsible for the scheme.

Films will be sent by Red Cross ships and distributed from Geneva.



● Neither does the gradual wear and eventual failure of the mechanical and electrical parts of a Sound System.

That's why it's essential that they be inspected regularly in order to detect and replace worn and defective parts before they fail.

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IT'S ALWAYS  
FAIR WEATHER  
WHEN GOOD  
SHOWMEN  
AND GOOD  
SHOWS GET  
TOGETHER!

# THE Paramount Picture

EXTRA  
PLAYING TIME IS  
THE ORDER OF  
THE DAY WITH  
PARAMOUNT  
PRODUCT!

VOL. 3

(ADVT.)

The Lowdown on the Production and Distribution of the Best Shows in Town!

NO. 2

## 'Uninvited' Sure-Fire Thriller!

### Loaded With Exciting Thrills That Will Pack Them In

Paramount has come across with a taut and gripping drama that makes journeys into the supernatural believable. In "The Uninvited," Paramount has made superb use of suspense in sustaining interest to the very last foot of film.

Infinite pains have been taken by Producer Charles Brackett to maintain the class and distinction written into the Dorothy Macardie novel. The characters have been intelligently and magnificently handled by Director Lewis Allen.

The story concerns a young writer (Ray Milland) and his sister (Ruth Hussey) who buy a house on the Dover Cliffs in England. They find the house to be haunted by two female ghosts and set about ridding the house of the uninvited guests with hair-raising results.

Paramount has handed their new find, Gail Russell, an ideal role played with reserve and a sensitiveness which makes her very winsome. Miss Russell will certainly be a focal point for eyes both in the industry and among the patrons.

"The Uninvited" is a thrilling, eerie picture but excellent entertainment any place, anytime.

Exhibitors who like to see plenty of patrons on hand will like this one.



Here's Paulette Goddard, soon to be seen with Fred MacMurray in "Standing Room Only," who is going to become the chief national campaigner of perfect safety working garb for women war plant workers for the National Safety Council.

### 'Lady' More Than Perfect

Here is a letter received from Homer Rockwell, executive vice-president of the Screenland Unit of Hunter Publications, Inc., written after Mr. Rockwell had attended a screening of Paramount's lavish Technicoloured filmization of the Broadway hit, "Lady in the Dark." Mr. Rockwell writes:

"Paul Hunter and I saw 'Lady in the Dark' Wednesday night.

"Mathematicians tell me that nothing can rate higher than 100%, which is too bad because it did seem to me that 'Lady in the Dark' was something more than perfect.

"There ought to be some method of superlative description for the picture because I thought the stage play was tops but the picture was even better.

"I'm looking forward to another tremendously enjoyable evening when the picture reaches my own hometown theatre."

The Screenland Unit publishes three of the leading picture fan magazines, Screenland, Silver Screen and Movie Show.

### Para Newsreel Scores Again

In arrangement with the Canadian Prisoners of War Office, the Canadian Paramount Newsreels is now being shown in all Internment Camps across the Dominion.

This is another feather in the hat of Paramount, whose Canadian Paramount News was unanimously chosen by the War Services Committee for showing in all armed service camps across the country (including the CWAC's).

Theatres across Canada are now showing "Our Fifth Year at War," which is the motion picture story of Canada's accomplishments since she entered the great struggle. Not an exhibitor in Canada should miss showing this outstanding newsreel.

It has been a great BO booster from the first.

### Speaks for Itself!

Delaney Theatre  
Gananoque, Ont.

January, 1944

Paramount Film Co.—

Dear Sirs—Whenever you have such outstanding short musicals such as this "Mardi Gras" send them along. That was one of the finest I've seen.

(Signed)

Eva Delaney

(Mrs. Delaney, you ain't seen nothin' yet! Wait till you play "Caribbean Romance" and "Lucky Cowboy")



**NEWCOMER**—Gail Russell is one of Hollywood's busiest young actresses. In "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay" she co-stars with Diana Lynn; in "The Uninvited," she plays the heroine opposite Ray Milland, and in "Lady In the Dark," she appears prominently with Ginger Rogers, Ray Milland, Warner Baxter and Jon Hall.



# LEADING

★ ★ *Stars* ★ ★



It will be noted that Roy Rogers scores both as a star in the top ten brackets as well as NUMBER ONE WESTERN STAR—a remarkable achievement.

SHOWMEN'S TRADE  
REVIEW

## *Actors*

ABBOTT & COSTELLO  
BOB HOPE  
MICKEY ROONEY  
JAMES CAGNEY  
BING CROSBY  
TYRONE POWER  
GARY COOPER  
HUMPHREY BOGART  
CARY GRANT  
ROY ROGERS



### ROY ROGERS

"King of the Cowboys"  
PLACED BY EXHIBITORS AS THE NO. 1  
BOX-OFFICE STAR IN THE POLLS CON-  
DUCTED BY "SHOWMEN'S TRADE REVIEW"  
AND THE "MOTION PICTURE HERALD"

## *Rogers Gallops Into First Place*

There's a new star riding at the head of the Western parade as Roy Rogers moved up into the spot vacated by Gene Autry, six-year winner of the Western Money-Maker poll now serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps. Rogers has been pressing toward the top since he first appeared on the 1939 list, moving from third to second place last year and galloping through eight Western "Specials" to emerge the winner in 1943.

from the  
MOTION PICTURE HERALD

*Starred in*

# REPUBLIC PICTURES

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